

Tiverton Open Space and Land Preservation Commission

Minutes of January 27, 2010 Meeting

Essex Library, Highland Road

Convened 7:03 p.m. **Present:** Susan Anderson, Brian Janes (Co-chair), Martin Van Hof, Ginger Lacy (Co-chair), Martha Moore, Garry Plunkett, Phil Schuyler. **Excused:** Dick Bixby, Gayle Lawrence.

Administrative Announcements and Reports.

The December minutes were reviewed and accepted, with corrections. Plunkett gave the treasurer's report (accepted) and recorded volunteer hours for the month. Moore distributed the 2010 meeting schedule, which she has filed with the Town Clerk. Lacy reported that she has sent a letter of appreciation to Mo Fiola for his volunteer mowing and monitoring of the East Road entry area of Weetamoo.

Moore collected several items for the TOSC 2008-2009 Archive Notebook, which includes agendas, minutes, public program posters, newspaper clippings, photos, etc. Moore was commended for the idea and for putting these together. They will be filed in the Town Hall TOSC file.

Lacy introduced the idea of producing a Weetamoo bird poster similar to the wildflower panel she did for the Lee Memorial. Sponsoring a public bird program-slide show during spring migration, possibly by Geoff Dennis or Mike Tucker, would complement and publicize the poster. Plunkett will contact Dennis and check availability of the Town Hall for a May Sunday afternoon program.

Lacy informed the commission of the date of the Land and Water Conference - March 27, and encouraged all to check the programs.

Trails and habitat.

Ft. Barton Woods. Schuyler reported that he replaced two bridge crossties. He also updated the Commission on the status of acquiring and installing a new flagpole for Fort Barton.

Weetamoo Woods. Plunkett reported that he "refreshed" trail arrows on the southern sector of the Weetamoo trail system, including installing several "Public Property Boundary" signs. The oak windfall tree on the red trail has been cleared. He also proposed white blazes at discreet points on the meadow trail, which is not a "colored" trail so it has no arrows; the Commission endorsed that plan. Plunkett is still exploring a solution to the wet area on the north yellow trail. He also walked the perimeter of the meadow with Josh Lebreux to review with him what he will be brush-hogging.

Plunkett distributed drafts of a "You Are Here" map for directional assistance in Weetamoo. The ensuing discussion centered on whether more signs were needed and concern with increasing sign "litter" on the trails. The matter was tabled.

Education and grants. Plunkett reported that the Small Grant Request for expanding the parking at the Weetamoo East Road trailhead had been drafted by Lawrence and is ready to submit. Also, the USF&W Service grant contract for the Weetamoo meadow restoration has been signed.

Properties review. Janes provided an update on the status of ongoing property negotiations.

Adjournment: 8:35 pm.

Recorded by Garry Plunkett